

Audio Clips of Telephone Calls to NCI's Cancer Information Service

Inquiries from Callers

Caller #1: I have a...a girlfriend that has liver cancer, and she's going for chemo, and I was wondering if you have any information on liver cancer?

Caller # 2: Hi...um...I've been diagnosed with ovarian cancer and wanted to get some more information? I see that...that there is...um...a lot of information on the Web site but I'm having a hard time figuring out what I need to look at first.

Caller # 3: I was just diagnosed yesterday, with stage IV cancer in my throat. They told me I gotta get all my teeth removed and I've got to have two stages of surgery and 3 days of trea...uh...chemotherapy following that. And I have no insurance. I don't know what to do.

Caller # 4: I've been smoking since I was a young kid, and I've tried to quit, but what got me to want to quit smoking, again, was I found out my daughter started smoking.

Caller # 5: I'm a cancer survivor, and I wanted to know what was new on non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Information Specialist: May I ask, have you been diagnosed with breast cancer?

Caller #6: Just this morning.

Information Specialist: Oh. I'm...sorry to hear about your diagnosis. I know that can be quite a shock. What kind of information are you looking for?

Caller #6: Uh...the stages, the questions, risk factors, uh...what should I know?

Caller # 7: I'm calling regarding a 7-year-old grandchild diagnosed with anaplastic astrocytoma.

Caller # 8: Uh...my wife just had a colonoscopy, and they removed a very large polyp and talked about a bunch of terms that we didn't frankly understand. And the doctor wasn't being very helpful as far as trying to clarify things for us, so we were trying to see if there was some other source of information. They did a biopsy on this very large polyp, and said that it did have some precancer cells. And I'm not sure what that means, exactly.

Caller # 9: Usted me puede dar información sobre el tipo de papiloma humano que puede dar cáncer cervical?

Caller # 10: We're trying to help a patient with recurrent thyroid cancer, to get into clinical trial.

Caller # 11: I'm age 51, and I just had a complete hysterectomy and a tumor removed, and they found stage III...uh...ovarian cancer.

Caller # 12: Can you tell me, when you have a sonogram done, if they could tell if the nodule is a cyst, a tumor, or a cancer?

Responses from Information Specialists

Information Specialist #1: Interferon is a type of treatment. It's called a biologic therapy. And basically, a biologic therapy is a type of treatment that uses your immune system to help fight cancer cells.

Information Specialist #2: When cancer does occur or return, the lung is one of the more common places for cancer to metastasize, or spread. But those cancer cells will be the same. So it wouldn't be a second primary cancer of lung cancer. But in fact, it would still be throat cancer that has metastasized, or spread, to the lung.

Information Specialist #3: We know that pancreatic cancer can be very difficult to treat, and unfortunately, it's often found in later stages. What our information says is that this cancer tends not respond often or very well to chemotherapy. Our resources also say that it's strongly recommended that people consider participating in clinical trials.

Closing Comments from Callers

Caller #1: Thank you so much.

Caller #2: That's exactly what I'm looking for.

Caller #3: Oh girl, I appreciate you so much. I really do. Thank you.

Caller #4: I've been calling since '90 because my husband was sick also, and you've been very informative.

Caller #5: Le agradezco mucho su atencion. Gracias.

Caller #6: I do appreciate all your help.

Caller #7: I appreciate your assistance.

Information Specialist: You're very welcome.